



NEWS

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CHP Officers Return From Humanitarian Duty In Louisiana

(SACRAMENTO) -- Completing the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) 28-day tour of aid in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, a final contingent of 117 CHP officers returned home to California this morning at the Ontario Airport. Overall, a total of 234 CHP personnel were deployed to the flood stricken area during the past four weeks.

"I personally want to commend each of these CHP officers for their selfless dedication to the relief efforts and for representing the compassion and concern of all Californians," stated Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Upon leaving the Louisiana command center, CHP Deputy Chief John Fogerty presented two checks to the Louisiana Troopers Association. One check of more than \$4,000 consisted of personal contributions from CHP employees who had been deployed to the hurricane ravaged area. A second check for \$75,000 was donated by the 11-99 Foundation, a private non-profit organization that helps CHP employees and families in times of need.

"The committed service and generosity of these CHP officers speaks volumes of their integrity and character," said Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak of the Business, Transportation & Housing Agency that oversees the CHP.

The 234 CHP officers, 40 patrol vehicles and 3 aircraft that were deployed to the Gulf Region aided in the rescue of countless stranded victims and assisted in the arrest of several looters. Officers also performed routine patrols and other law enforcement duties alongside their counterparts with the Louisiana State Police through a mutual aid agreement. It is estimated that the four week CHP deployment cost nearly \$4 million. The funds will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We're proud that we were able to provide some assistance and comfort to the people of Louisiana during their immediate recovery effort," said CHP Commissioner Mike Brown. "California is unfortunately familiar with the devastation that natural disasters can bring."

California has deployed/mobilized more than 1,500 personnel for the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. Now with the CHP back in California, 740 California National Guard, 222 Urban Search and Rescue, and 120 California Conservation Corps personnel remain in the Gulf Region.

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